BANC 101: INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT (TMA)

Course Code: BANC 101

Assignment Code: BANC 101/ASST/TMA/July 2026-January 2027

Total Marks: 100

There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all the questions in all the three sections.

Assignment –I

1. Answer the following questions in about 500 words each. 20x2=40

a. Define Physical / Biological Anthropology. Discuss its aims and scope.

b. Discuss the major theories of organic evolution, and critically analyse any one theory with suitable examples.

Assignment –II

2. Answer the following questions in about 250 words each. 10x2=20

Write short notes on any two of the following

a. Convergence

b. Primate evolutionary trend

c. Extinction

3. Answer any two of the following questions in about 150 words each. 5x2=10

a. Carl Von Linnaeus

b. Darwinism

c. Mongoloid group

Assignment –III

4. Answer the following questions in the about 250 words 10x3=30

a. Describe Martin's Anthropometer with diagram.

b. Briefly describe the landmarks, method, instruments used and precaution while measuring morphological facial height.

c. What is somatoscopy? Write three somatoscopic observations of human body in detail.

1. Answer the following questions in about 500 words each. 20x2=40

a. Define Physical / Biological Anthropology. Discuss its aims and scope.

Answer

Physical or Biological Anthropology is the branch of anthropology that studies human beings as biological organisms. It examines human origins, evolution, biological variation, growth and adaptation, and also compares humans with other primates. Anthropology studies people as a whole, but biological anthropology gives special attention to the body, heredity, environment and evolutionary history. It tries to explain both the biological features that all humans share and the differences observed among individuals and populations.

Aims of Biological Anthropology

One important aim is to understand **human origin and evolution**. Biological anthropologists examine fossils, skeletons and living primates to explain how our ancestors changed over millions of years. They study such developments as upright walking, changes in teeth and jaws, increasing brain size and the appearance of modern humans. This helps place human beings within the wider history of life on Earth.

Another aim is to study **human biological variation**. People differ in height, body build, skin pigmentation, blood groups and many other features. The discipline investigates how inheritance, environment, nutrition, development and natural selection influence these differences. It shows why human diversity is continuous and overlapping rather than a collection of fixed biological races. Population differences must be understood without attaching ideas of superiority or inferiority to them.

A third aim is to understand **adaptation**. Human populations face different conditions, such as high altitude, strong sunlight, extreme cold, infectious diseases and limited food resources. Some responses arise through inherited evolutionary changes, while others involve physiological adjustment, learning or culture. For example, acclimatisation helps a newcomer cope with mountain conditions, whereas some long-resident high-altitude populations also show inherited adaptations. Biological anthropology separates these processes instead of treating every difference as genetic.

The subject also studies **growth, development and health**. It examines how the body changes from conception through childhood, maturity and old age. Nutrition, hormones, illness, social conditions and physical activity all affect